CLAIMS

1. An identity authentication device having the general shape of a stylus, the device comprising:

a processor disposed within the stylus, the processor having memory, the stylus including a component for capturing within the processor memory a written signature generated by the stylus while the stylus is writing upon a surface; and

a sensor disposed within the grip of the stylus, the sensor enabling the capture of a biometric property of a finger while the stylus is being used for writing upon the surface.

2. The identity authentication device of Claim 1, wherein the biometric property is a fingerprint.

3. The identity authentication device of Claim 1, wherein the device is wireless and portable

4. The identity authentication device of Claim 1, wherein the surface is a digital surface and there is a tethered connection of the device to the area proximate to the digital surface.

5. The identity authentication device of Claim 1, wherein the capture component is a scanner.

6. The identity authentication device of Claim 1, wherein text written on the surface and text written on the surface are captured for processing.

7. An identity authenticator disposed in a grip of a stylus, the stylus being used to capture text written by the stylus upon a surface, the stylus including a component to capture text generated by the stylus, the identity authenticator device comprising capture of a biometric property of a finger when the stylus grip is touched in an incidental manner, the identity authenticator device limiting access to text written by the stylus to a person who generates the text.

8. The identity authenticator of Claim 7, wherein the authenticator is a fingerprint sensor.

9. The identity authentication of Claim 7, wherein the stylus is wireless and portable

10. The identity authentication of Claim 7, wherein the surface is a digital surface and there is a tethered connection of the device to the area proximate to the digital surface.

11. The identity authentication of Claim 7, wherein the component is a scanner.

12. The identity authentication of Claim 7, wherein text written on the surface and text written on the surface are captured for processing.

13. A signature pad that captures the electronic signature comprising a stylus, the stylus having a grip, a device being disposed in the stylus grip that authenticates identity of a person generating the electronic signature, identity authentication being performed in an incidental manner while the stylus is being used.

14. The signature pad of Claim 13, wherein the authenticator is a fingerprint sensor.

15. The signature pad of Claim 13, wherein the stylus is wireless and portable

16. The signature pad of Claim 13, wherein the surface is a digital surface and there is a tethered connection of the device to the area proximate to the digital surface.

17. The signature pad of Claim 13, wherein the component is a scanner.

18. The signature pad of Claim 13, wherein text written on the surface and text written on the surface are captured for processing.